

Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 SS-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

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----- 099625

R 111640Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6833

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 06065

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, ELAB

SUBJ: FROM CUT TO ULC - NEW LABOR CONFEDERATION FORMED

DEPT FOR ARA/LA/PCD OGRADY PASS TO AFL/W AND AFL-CIO

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REF: SANTIAGO A-235, NOV 30, 1973 NOTAL

1. SUMMARY. LEADERS OF CHILE'S NEWLY FORMED "LABOR UNION OF CHILE"

(UNION LABORAL DE CHILE--ULC) MET WITH LABOR MINISTER GENERAL MACKAY LATE AFTERNOON DEC 7 TO INFORM HIM OF ULC EXISTENCE AND REQUEST GOC RECOGNITION. SEVERAL LATER INFORMED LABATT THAT THEY WERE WARMLY RECEIVED AND PROMISED THAT OFFICIAL GOC RECOGNITION (PERSONERIA JURIDICA) WOULD BE ANNOUNCED IN NEAR FUTURE. PRESENTLY 23 NATIONAL UNIONS OR FEDERATIONS (LISTED IN TEXT) CLAIMING 536,000 AFFILIATES NOW PARTICIPATING IN ULC WITH OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN HANDS OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT PARTY(PDC) FOLLOWERS. LARGE COPPER WORKERS' CONFEDERATION (CONFEDERACION DE TRABAJADORES DE COBRE--CTC) REORGANIZED DEC 6 UNDER APPROVING BUT WATCHFUL EYE OF GOC. PDC LEADERS EMERGED FROM THIS EFFORT WITH BARE MAJORITY CONTROL OVER LEADERS PREVIOUSLY COMMITTED TO UP PARTIES. END SUMMARY.

2. CLIMAX OF SEVERAL WEEKS QUIET ORGANIZATIONAL EFFORT CAME IN DEC 6 MEETING OF LEADERS 23 NATIONAL UNIONS AND FEDERATIONS. PARTICIPATING AFFILIATES WERE: NATIONAL COPPER WORKERS CONFED (TC) 30,000 MEMBERS (CLAIMED); NATIONAL METAL WORKERS CONFED (CNTM) 30,000 MEMBERS (CLAIMED) LAN CHILE INDUSTRIAL UNION 3,000; CHILECTRA (POWER & LIGHT) IND UNION 5,000; ENDESA (POWER & LIGHT) IND UNION 5,000; NATIONAL PETROLEUM WORKERS UNION (ENAP) 4,000; STEELWORKERS INDUSTRIAL UNION (CAP) 7,000; PORT WORKERS (OBREROS) FED 6,000; NAT. TEXTILE WORKERS FED. (FENETEX) 50,000; PLASTIC WORKERS CONFED. (CONATRAP) 6,000; LEATHERS & SHOE WORKERS FED. (FONACC) 15,000; WHITE-COLLAR (EMPLEADOS PARTICULARS) CONFED. (CEPCH) 40,000; GOVT. WORKERS FED. (ANEF) 45,000; NAT. HEALTH WORKERS FED. (FENATS) 50,000; BANK WORKERS FED. 10,000; MUNICIPAL WORKERS FED. 10,000; MUNICIPAL WORKERS (BLUE-COLLAR) ASSOC. 18,000; UNION OF COMPESINO CONFEDS. (INCL. OLD "TRIUNFO," "LIBERTAD" AND MOST OF "RANQUIL" CONFEDS. 150,000; MARITIME CONFED. (COMACH) 50,000; NAT. FED. OF "MICRO-BUS" DRIVERS 10,000; (REMAINING FEDERATIONS OF SEAMEN, SANITARY WORKERS, CLOTHING AND "SELF-EMPLOYED (AUTOGESTION) FOR WHICH WE HAVE NO MEMBERSHIP ESTIMATES) -- CLAIMED TOTAL MEMBERS 536,000.

3. LEADERS OF PARICIPATING UNIONS DECIDED ON NAME "UNION LABORAL
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DE CHILE" (SEVERAL CLAIMED LATER IT WAS UNION LABORAL DE TRABAJADORES DE CHILE) ULC AND SELECTED FOLLOWING "PROVISIONAL" OFFICERS: PRES. EDUARDO RIOS ARIAS OF COMACH AND PDC; 1ST VP TUCAPEL JIMENEZ ALFARO OF ANEF AND RADICAL PARTY; 2ND VP LUIS VILLENA ARELLANO OF SALVADOR COPPER MINE AND PDC; 3 RD VP FEDERICO CANALES OF CEPACH AND NAT. DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PADENA); GEN. SECY VICTORIANO ZENTENO SUAZO OF "TRIUNFO" COMPENSINO CONFED. AND ALSO HEAD OF NEW UNION OC CAMP. CONFEDS. AND PDC; SUB-SECY OCTAVIO DIAZ OF TEXTILES (FENETEX) AND PDC; TREASURER CARLOS ORTEGA ROCCO OF BANK FED. AND PDC; SUB-TREAS. JOSE PINO OF METAL (CNTM) AND PDC; SECY OF ORGANIZATION EDUARDO CARO OF HEALTH (FENATS) AND PDC.

4. EDUARDO RIOS WHO IS PRESENTLY ON EUROPEAN MISSION FOR JUNTA

(PARA 6 OF SANTIAGO 5661) WAS ELECTED WITH MILD OPPOSITION OF MANY AND STRONG PROTEST FROM SOME PORT AND MARITIME LEADERS. MANUEL RODRIGUEZ POZO, FORMER HEAD CUT SANTIAGO, WAS NOMINATED BUT DECLINED ON GROUNDS HE AS COMMITTED TO SERVE IN ROLE "ASSISTING IN EDUCATION AND REORIENTATION OF CHILEAN WORKERS." COMMENT: WE ASSUME HE REFERRED TO PLANS FOR HEADING CORPORACION DE ASISTENCIA TECNICA SINDICAL--(CATS--CORPORATION FOR UNION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE) WHICH WAS RECENTLY FORMED. END COMMENT.

5. COMMITTEE OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS AND CARLOS SALAS, PDC LABOR VICE PRES AND PRIME MOVER IN ORGANIZATION OF ULC, MET WITH MINLABOR CARABINERO GEN. MARIO MACKAY LATE AFTERNOON DEC 7 AND INFORMED HIM OF FORMATION ULC. COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPORTED PRIVATELY LATER THAT THEY WERE WARMLY RECEIVED BY MACKAY AND PROMISED THAT GOC WOULD OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZE ULC IN NEAR FUTURE. LEADERS PLEDGED SUPPORT OF JUNTA AND URGED PROMPT RESTORATION TRADE UNION RIGHTS. MINISTER INDICATED DESIRE OF JUNTA TO PERMIT NORMAL FUNCTIONING OF UNIONS BUT COULD OFFER NO INDICATED DATE FOR ACTION. SALAS DESCRIBED MEETING AS ROUTINE, PRO-FORMA, AS WAY HAD BEEN PREPARED FOR WEEKS BY PDC MINISTRY OFFICIALS DIR. GEN OF LABOR GUILLERMO VIDELA AND UNDER SEC. LAMBERTO CISTERNAS.

6. WEEKEND PRESS GAVE ONE BACK PAGE SIX-INCHER (LA TERCERS) TO EVENT, WHICH MENTIONED MEETING WITH MACKAY, NAMED MOST OF PARTICIPATING FOUNDING UNIONS, BUT FAILED TO MENTION NAMES OF OFFICERS OR EVEN NAME OF NEW UNION.

7. SALAS AND OTHER LEADERS PRIVATELY CONFIDE THAT THEY ARE NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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OVERLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT POSSIBILITIES FOR ULC'S NEAR FUTURE OPERATION. MOST FEEL ULC LEADERSHIP'S IMMEDIATE ROLE WILL BE LOW-KEY EFFORT TO PRESSURE GOC TOWARD FREEDOM FOR RETURN TO NORMAL FUNCTIONS. SALAS EXPRESSED HOPE ULC WAS NOT "STILLBORN" (NACIO MUERTO) AND FEELS GOC WILL BE HIGHLY RELUCANT TO ABOLISH ORGANIZATION IN FUTURE FOR FEAR FURTHER DAMAGE TO THEIR "INTERNATIONAL IMAGE." HE WAS HIGHLY PLEASED WITH STRONG PDC MAJORITY LEADERSHIP, BUT POINTED OUT THAT THIS REPRESENTS ACCURATE MAKE-UP CHILEAN LABOR AFTER MARXIST PARTIES WERE ELIMINATED.

8. WORKING UNDER PRESSURE OF WIDE-SPREAD RUMORS THAT GOC WAS ON VERGE DECLARING ORGANIZATION ILLEGAL, PDC LEADERS OF CTC (COPPER WORKERS CONFEDERATION-- WORKERS OF BIG THREE SALVADOR, CHUQUICAMATA AND TENIENTE MINES) REORGANIZED CONFEDERATION DURING WEEK OF DEC 3. ASSISTED BY PDC MIN/LAB OFFICIALS (WHO GRANTED PERMISSION TO LEAVE MINES AND TO MEET IN SANTIAGO), LEADERS REVERSED PREVIOUS UP PARTY CONTROL OF CTC AND VOTED TO CHOOSE A NEW NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD TO BE COMPOSED OF SEVEN FROM PDC, FIVE FROM SOCIALIST PARTY, AND ONE FROM COMMUNIST PARTY. SEVERAL OF COPPER LEADERS CLAIMED TO LABATT THAT PDC SALVADOR MINE LEADER GUILLERMO SANTANA IS SHOO-IN FOR CTC PRESIDENT WHEN MINE LEADERS SELECT OFFICERS NEXT MONTH.

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BOGOTA
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GUATEMALA
KINGSTON

LA PAZ
LIMA
MANAGUA
MEXICO CITY
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